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TELECOMMUNICATIONS®



November 24, 1999

EX PARTE FILING

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
12th Street Lobby, TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Re: CC Docket No. 97-213, In the Matter of Communications Assistance for
Law Enforcement Act

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Ms. Salas:

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) hereby requests that the enclosed letter be included in the record of the above-captioned proceeding. An original and one copy of this filing are submitted. Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek R. Khlopin".

Derek R. Khlopin
Regulatory Counsel

Grant E. Seiffert
Vice President, Government Relations

Enclosure: Letter from Matthew J. Flanigan, TIA President, to the Honorable Louis J. Freeh, Director - Federal Bureau of Investigations (dated November 22, 1999).

cc: Ari Fitzgerald, Office of the Chairman
Mark Schneider, Office of Commissioner Ness
Peter Tenhula, Office of Commissioner Powell
Bryan Tramont, Office of Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth
Karen Gulick, Office of Commissioner Tristani
Tom Sugrue, Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Dale Hatfield, Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology

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Matthew J. Flanigan
President
(703) 907-7701



November 22, 1999

The Honorable Louis J. Freeh
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigations
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20535-0001

Dear Director Freeh:

I am writing to offer the Telecommunications Industry Association's (TIA) assistance in seeking additional funding for CALEA solutions. TIA and its member companies are concerned about whether adequate funding will be available for timely implementation of the core J-STD-025 capabilities. Given the rapidly approaching deadline for implementing these capabilities, and the lead time needed to test and deploy a CALEA solution throughout the nation's telecommunications networks, TIA believes that substantial funds will be needed by the end of the year to pay for the deployment of a CALEA solution.

TIA is the principal industry association representing manufacturers and suppliers of telecommunications products and equipment. As you know, TIA's members have been working closely with the FBI and telecommunications service providers for the past several years to meet the aggressive deadline imposed for providing the core CALEA capabilities. Substantial development efforts are nearing completion, and TIA's members are working with their customers to ensure that necessary testing and development plans are in place to offer CALEA solutions as soon as possible.

To date, approximately \$115 million has been appropriated for CALEA and TIA understands that an additional \$15 million is included in the Omnibus Budget legislation for FY00, which Congress expects to pass next week. TIA is concerned that these funds will be insufficient to cover the sweeping deployment currently being planned. Additional appropriations for FY00, even if possible, will not be available in time for carriers to test and install the necessary equipment.


TIA is aware that the FBI could fund additional amounts needed for timely CALEA deployment through its working capital fund, if approval is obtained from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. TIA encourages the FBI to initiate that process and is ready to provide whatever support is needed to gain necessary Congressional approval.

Matthew J. Flanigan
President
(703) 907-7701

To reiterate, time is of the essence. Given the technical complexity of engineering a CALEA solution for the nationwide public switched network, significant testing must be completed. Such testing is needed not only to ensure that the FBI's wiretapping needs are met, but also that basic network functionalities (*i.e.*, dialtone) are not impeded. To ensure adequate time to test and deploy a core CALEA solution, manufacturers must begin to offer their solutions to carriers in the immediate future.

TIA therefore strongly urges the FBI to initiate efforts to ensure that adequate funding is available by December 31, 1999 to meet the CALEA mandate and looks forward to providing the FBI and Department of Justice with whatever support is necessary toward that end. Please let us know how we can be helpful.

Regards,



Matthew J. Flanigan

cc: Steve Colgate
Mike Warren